Final Project Proposal

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For my final project, I would like to create a teacher’s website that would be useful in my own classroom someday. I would like to teach high school math and I think my education would have been enhanced if I had access to some kind of website throughout my high school math classes. We learn in chapter two and I completely agree that communication is a very important factor in education. One of the major goals of my website is to create a communication system between myself and my students. The website will be used to keep students informed. There will be a page for weekly and monthly schedules, including outlines of our plan throughout each chapter so students are prepared for each lesson. There will be a page with links to helpful websites, such as proofs of concepts we are learning in class for students who may need another perspective to further understand. An equation sheet will be created and posted on the website so that not only will students be able to refer to it while doing assignments, but because they have more access to it, they are more likely to memorize the equations. All homework assignments will be posted on the site and after they are handed in, solutions will be attached as well so students can see and understand their mistakes. I would like to attach videos of myself doing and discussing problems so that students can watch AND listen to a lesson simultaneously while outside of the classroom. I will create a math journal and upload it to the site that will give more examples on important topics than there was time for in class and these examples will use pictures, graphs and other visual learning tools to illustrate the concepts. There will also be a way for students to contact me to ask any questions they were embarrassed or uncomfortable asking in class. There will be a way for students to communicate with each other through some kind of chat room, blog or discussion board so they can communicate about questions on homework or study groups. Finally, I would like to have a program on the website that allows each student to see their own personal progress. As the semester goes on and I learn more about technology, I would like to add more useful tools for students to this website but for now, those are my ideas, goals and purposes for my teacher website.

The audience viewing my website will be high school math students and maybe their parents. If I am teaching different classes, there will be separate sections of the site pertaining to the different classes. I hope that even students that are not in math classes that I will be teaching in the future may use the site and find it beneficial for information and examples of topics they are also discussing in their classes.

This project is very significant to me because it is my goal to become a high school math teacher. One of the reasons I dream of becoming a mathematics teacher is because so many students dislike the subject and think it is incredibly hard and useless. I want to be able to create a learning environment for my students that makes them feel comfortable and helps them succeed, which will hopefully result in motivating students to want to learn mathematics. I think a great way to do this is through technology because as time goes on, technology is becoming a huge part of society and students are always using technology. By having a course website, students will be able to use technology to check their homework assignments, check their grades, study, communicate and better understand new topics. I have always planned on making a class website when I become a teacher and I am very excited that we will not only be making one in this class, but learning which technologies I can use in my website and how to make it the most useful site I can.

Of the tools that I am aware of now, I would like to use wikis on my site for assignments. I do not think that group is emphasized enough in mathematics education today. It is very helpful for students to compare different solutions and correct each others’ mistakes. Through wikis on the website, students will be able to show their work on certain topics and problems and other students will be able to go onto the wiki and edit, change or add to the strategies or solutions of their peers. Another great asset to the site will be blogs or discussion boards. In these discussions, students will be able to post questions and help each other with solutions. As the teacher, I will be able to see which topics are most confusing and further discuss them in class. I would like to also use videos rather than podcasts because mathematics is much easier understood with visuals and examples. As previously stated, I would like to show videos of myself doing problems while explaining them so students can look at the examples and not have to try and figure out how I got from one step to another, as they would with simple notes. I do not think podcasts would work as well for the site because talking about the problems is not usually as helpful as actually doing them in mathematics. As I learn more about technology, I would like to add more internet based tools to the site.

The theory of learning as communication or the communications cycle would apply to the visitors of my website. The site will create a great system of communication between the teacher and the students, and between the students themselves. Gardner’s theory of multiple intelligences will also apply to the visitors of my website. Many of the intelligences in Gardner’s theory will be used on the site. For students with strong linguistic intelligence, the videos of my voice discussing problems will be useful. Students with strong logical-mathematical intelligence, will find that reading the mathematics journal will be helpful in further understanding topics. The mathematics journal would also be useful to students with strengths in spatial intelligence because there will be pictures, graphs and figures to illustrate concepts. Strong interpersonal and intrapersonal intelligences will be used in the discussion boards and wikis because students will be responding to each other and raising their own insights.

I am very excited to make a teacher website for a high school mathematics class. I think that establishing communication and using technological learning tools are two great benefits of this project. I know that I will be able to use this site in the future to better my students’ educational experience.